

the claims have been amended for the better readability thereof to expedite matters. While Applicant appreciates that he cannot amend the finally rejected claims as a matter of right, he believes that the present amendment may place the application in immediate condition for allowance.

In particular, Applicant has amended the claims to recite the novel characteristic of the monoclonal antibody of the present invention in which the antibody specifically reacts with or recognizes inactivated FIV or inactivated FIV glycoprotein but does not react with or recognize live FIV or live FIV glycoprotein. The amendment was not previously presented because it was believed in good faith that the insertion of the wording "having the Western immunoblot analysis shown in Figure 1" would suffice. Since the Examiner was not persuaded by that recitation, the rejection has been reviewed from a fresh perspective and the claims are further amended at this time, albeit after a final rejection. Applicant respectfully asks that the Examiner enter the amendment in the record and consider it in a favorable light.

This amendment is warranted to respond directly to the final Official action and revise the claim language based on the teachings in the specification. The claims, if amended as proposed, do not present new issues requiring further consideration or search. This amendment requires only a cursory review by the Examiner. Support for the amendment is found on page 3, lines 25-29; page 4, lines 24-28; and page 10, lines 1-28 of the specification. Thus, the amendment introduces no new matter into the application.

In view of the amendment, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claims 1-10 and 19-21 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, be withdrawn; Claims 11-18 be rejoined; and the application be allowed.

Applicant is grateful that the Examiner has deemed Claim 22 allowable and appreciates the kind offer to contact the Office if he wishes to proceed with the allowance of Claim 22. Nevertheless, it is hoped that the Examiner will be receptive to the present response and find that the amendment overcomes the rejection of Claims 1-10 and 19-21. Otherwise, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney and recommend acceptable language for the claims.

Accordingly, this application is now in condition for an allowance. Such favorable treatment is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

WYETH

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